

Amendments to the Specification:

Please insert the following heading after the Title:

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Please insert the following heading after paragraph [0002]:

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Please replace paragraph [0004] with the following amended paragraph:

[0004] This object is achieved by a sliding element ~~with the features specified in claim 1 as well as the use with the features specified in claim 11..~~ comprising a sliding section comprising a surface structure of carbon.

Preferred embodiment forms are to be deduced from the respective dependent claims.

Please add the following new paragraph after paragraph [0005]:

[0005.1] It is a further object to provide a sliding element comprising a carbon surface structure that is compacted.

Please add the following heading after paragraph [0016]:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF ACCOMPANYING DRAWINGS

Please add the following heading after paragraph [0023]:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

Please add the following paragraphs after paragraph [0032]:

[0032.1] While the method, apparatus and embodiments described herein constitute preferred embodiments of the invention, it is to be

understood that the invention is not limited to these precise method and forms of apparatus, and that changes may be made in either without departing from the scope of the invention, which is defined in the appended claims.

[0032.2] What is claimed is: